

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the priority information contained in the Preliminary Amendment filed on November 3, 2003 as follows:

This application is a continuation of copending Application Serial No. 09/908,467, ~~file~~ filed on July 18, 2001, which in turn is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/302,856, filed on April 30, 1999.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

A method of positioning an intraurethral device 20 into a urethra using insertion tool 400 may now be described with reference to Figure 4. A first step desirable in some applications is to pre-lubricate and pre-dilate the urethra of the patient. The use of insertion tool 400 begins with the step of inserting distal end 404 of shaft 402 into lumen 30 of sheath 22. Distal portion 50 of intraurethral device 20 is then urged into axial alignment with sheath 22. As a result, lumen 30 of distal portion 50 is disposed in axial alignment with lumen 30 of sheath 22. Insertion tool 400 may then be urged forward so that distal end 404 enters lumen 430 of distal portion 50. The entire assembly may now be held ~~[[be]]~~ by grasping shaft 402 of insertion tool 400. When insertion tool 400 is disposed within lumen 30 of sheath 22 and distal portion 50 it provides structural support. The structural support provided by insertion tool 400 improves the pushability of sheath 22 and distal member 50. Distal member 50 and sheath 22 may now be inserted into the urethra. In many cases it is desirable to apply a lubricant to the exterior surfaces of distal member 50 and sheath 22 prior to insertion.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

In a presently preferred embodiment, distal member 150 and leaf spring 500 are fixed together using an over molding process. In the ~~[[is]]~~ manufacturing process, a distal portion of leaf spring 500 is positioned in a mold cavity. The material of distal member 150 is then injected into the mold cavity. The material of distal member 150 surrounds distal portion of leaf spring 500. Materials which may be suitable for this preferred embodiment include thermoset materials such as implantable grade silicone rubber. Materials which may be suitable for this preferred embodiment also include thermoplastic materials such as thermoplastic rubber. Those of skill in the art will appreciate that other methods of attaching distal portion 502 of leaf spring 500 to distal member 150 may be used without deviating from the spirit or scope of the present invention. For example, the mechanical attachment or the use of adhesives may be suitable for some applications.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

In the embodiment of Figure 5, a proximal portion of leaf spring 500 is fixed to sheath 122. A number of methods may be used to attach proximal portion ~~504~~ 154 to sheath 122, including over-molding, adhesive bonding, and mechanical attachment. Additional embodiments have been envisioned in which proximal portion of leaf spring 500 is fixed to flow control valve unit 140.